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ATTORNEY DOCKET: 40526.09101  
PATENT

3651  
#17  
526-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent application of:  
Stephen B. Maguire

Group Art Unit: 3651

Serial No.: 10/084,030

Examiner:  
Joseph A. Dillon, Jr.

Filed: February 27, 2002

For: VACUUM LOADING SYSTEM

**RECEIVED**

MAY 14 2004

**GROUP 3600**

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**RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Notice of Abandonment mailed April 29, 2004 in connection with the above-identified patent application.

A response to the Office Action mailed October 23, 2004 was timely dispatched to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 23, 2004. Exhibit A is a copy of the Response, as well as a Petition and Fee for Extension of Time bringing the time for response to April 23, 2004 and a Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejecting Over a Prior Patent.

The Response, Petition for Extension of Time and Terminal Disclaimer, together with a return postcard, were mailed in accordance with PTO Rule 1.8,

37 C.F.R. 1.8 as evidenced by the Certificates of Mailing which were executed by Rhonda Bryant on April 23, 2004.

A copy of the stamped postcard showing a date of receipt of April 26, 2004 by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of April 26, 2004 is enclosed as Exhibit B.

It is clear that the Response, Petition and Fee for Extension of Time and Terminal Disclaimer mailed April 23, 2004 were timely filed under 37 C.F.R. section 1.8, and that the Notice of Abandonment mailed April 29, 2004 was issued in error. Accordingly, it is requested that the above-identified application be reinstated.

To the extent there is any fee required in connection with the receipt, acceptance and/or consideration of this paper and/or any accompanying papers submitted herewith, please charge all such fees to Deposit Account 50-1943.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

10 May 2004



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below, with sufficient postage, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*Sherry Barag*  
(signature)

BY: Sherry Barag

DATE: May 10, 2004



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